

20  
CH  
Claim 26 (previously presented): A control method according to claim ~~21~~,  
wherein the paper ejection type represents a direction of a surface of ejected paper, and the  
direction is face-up or face-down.

20  
CH  
Claim 27 (previously presented): A control method according to claim ~~21~~,  
wherein the paper ejection type is an output order of pages, and the output order is  
ascending or descending.

Claims 28-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A control method according to claim [[21]]  
20, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least part of the  
~~distributed divided print job to be printed by~~ initially assigned to the first printing apparatus  
to ~~another the second~~ printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said  
recognition step, determining whether ~~the other a~~ printing apparatus which prints pages  
preceding to the ~~distributed divided print~~ job assigned to the first printing apparatus  
produces a face-down output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination  
step, then in said decision step, ~~at least part of the distributed job to be printed by the~~  
~~printing apparatus is assigned to the other~~ the printing apparatus subjected to the  
determination is decided as the second printing apparatus ~~that prints the preceding pages.~~